

DELAWARE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Meeting Minutes DRAFT

**January 16, 2020
5:00pm**

Professional Development Center of the Early Years Center
Red Clay Consolidated School District
1621 Telegraph Rd., Wilmington, DE 19804

Members Present: Vincent Lofink; Dr. Audrey Noble; Dorcas Olatunji; Rev. Provey Powell, Jr.; Wali Rushdan II, and Whitney Sweeney.

Members Absent: Nina Lou Bunting; Candice Fifer.

Others Present: Dr. Susan Bunting, SBE Executive Secretary and the Secretary of Education, Delaware Department of Education (DDOE); Christine Alois, Deputy Secretary of Education, DDOE; Emily Cunningham, Chief of Staff, DDOE; Jenna Ahner, SBE Executive Director; Kathleen Smith, SBE Administrative Assistant; Shayna Payne, DDOE; Juliet Murawski, DDOE; Kim Krzanowski, DDOE; Monica Gant, DDOE; Dorrell Green, Red Clay Consolidated School District; Susan Haberstroh, DDOE; Linnea Bradshaw, Executive Director, Professional Standards Board; Sabra Collins, DDOE; Chuck Longfellow, DDOE; Leroy Travers, DDOE; Deb Stevens, DSEA; Rob Rescigno, Wilmington University; Kendall Massett, DCSN; Douglas Garcia, College Board; Kathy Pruner, ETS; Tami Soltow, Odyssey Charter School; Frank Newton, Newark Charter School; Mike Matthews, resident; Darryl Parson, Department of Justice.

I. Opening

A. Call to Order:

Ms. Sweeney called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

B. Roll Call of State Board Members

Ms. Smith conducted roll call for the meeting with five members present (Lofink, Noble, Olatunji, Powell, and Sweeney).

C. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Mr. Lofink and seconded by Dr. Noble to approve the January 16, 2020 agenda as presented. The motion carried (4 Yes to 0 No - Yes: Lofink, Noble, Powell, and Sweeney).

D. Approval of December 19, 2019 Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Lofink and seconded by Dr. Noble to approve the December 19, 2019 minutes as presented. The motion carried (4 Yes to 0 No – Yes: Lofink, Noble, Powell, and Sweeney).

II. State Board Business

A. Committee Reports

1. Committee and Meeting Reports

Board members provided updates on recent Board business and committee participation. Ms. Sweeney shared that she and Dr. Noble presented to the House Education Committee. Rev. Powell shared about recent community engagement activities that he had participated in. Dr. Noble attended the DSBA Board of Director's meeting; she shared items of discussion including concerns with assessment and teacher and substitute retention. Board members discussed the opportunity for the Board to help convene groups focused on teacher and substitute retention. Dr. Noble also shared the top concerns flagged by teachers during her conversation with the Teachers Advisory Committee in November. Mr. Lofink participated in the state advisory committee on Competency-Based Learning. He shared that the CTE Committee will meet again in February. Ms. Olatunji spoke at the 90 Ideas in 90 Minutes event in Wilmington and is looking forward to the student forums.

Mr. Rushdan arrived at 5:04pm and was marked present.

2. CTE Committee Update

Mr. Lofink provided an update during his committee report.

B. Executive Director's Report

Ms. Ahner provided an update on recent activities in her office, including work in support of Board priorities.

III. Secretary's Report

Dr. Susan Bunting provided her report, details of which have been posted online. She highlighted Opportunity Funding updates, legislative updates, and updates from the Governor's cabinet.

IV. Regulations

A. Department of Education Regulations for Discussion or Action

1. Regulation 851 - K to 12 Comprehensive Health Education Program (For Action)

Dr. Christine Alois, Deputy Secretary of Education, DDOE; Dr. Susan Haberstroh, Director of School Support Services, DDOE; and Ms. Sabra Collins, Education Associate, DDOE provided information on this regulation. Board members asked questions about changes made to the regulation to address the public comments regarding the definition of evidence-based programs. Questions were also asked about the public comment regarding the tobacco industry and the impact on the curriculum, how interpersonal violence is defined, if the regulation will address the prevention of violent behavior, how effectiveness of programs will be measured and how charter school students were selected to participate on the committee.

A motion was made by Dr. Noble and seconded by Mr. Lofink to approve Regulation 851 as presented. The motion carried (4 Yes to 1 No – Yes: Lofink, Noble, Rushdan, and Sweeney; No: Powell.).

2. Regulation 292 - Post Secondary Institutions and Degree Granting Institutions of Higher Education

Ms. Shayna Payne, Director of the Higher Education Office, DDOE, presented information about this regulation. Board members asked questions about IHE's under investigation and the impact of this regulation on the IHE's operating currently in DE.

3. Regulation 1206 – Speech Language Pathologist Incentive Loan Program (For Information)

Ms. Shayna Payne, Director of the Higher Education Office, DDOE, was present to answer questions about this regulation.

4. Regulation 1207 – Delaware Nursing Incentive Program (For Information)

Ms. Shayna Payne, Director of the Higher Education Office, DDOE, was present to answer questions about this regulation.

B. Professional Standards Board Regulations for Discussion or Action

1. Regulation 1521 – Elementary Teacher (For Information)

The public comment period for Regulation 1521 has closed. The Professional Standards Board is scheduled to discuss this regulation at its next monthly meeting.

C. Public Comment on Regulations

No public comments were received.

V. **Presentations**

A. Red Clay Consolidated School District Presentation (For Information)

Mr. Dorrell Green, Superintendent, Red Clay Consolidated School District, presented information aligning with the Board’s strategic priority of partnerships and innovation in student learning. Mr. Green provided information about Red Clay’s strategic plan and work underway in the district. Board members asked questions about over-identification of certain groups of students and the district’s efforts to identify the root causes of these issues. Members also asked about to what they attributed the district’s increase in CTE partnerships.

B. Overview of Scholarships Administered by the Delaware Higher Education Office (For Information)

Ms. Juliet Murawski, Financial Aid and Scholarship Administrator, DDOE, presented an overview of the scholarships and loan forgiveness programs, including the types, amounts, and criteria for each. Board members asked questions about the repayment process, how many scholarships are renewed, how many graduates return to Delaware, what drives

categories of scholarships, data regarding the SEED program, how teachers are made aware of the reimbursement and repayment program, and data on gender and ethnicity of recipients.

C. Overview of Early Childhood Education in Delaware (For Information)

Dr. Kimberly Krzanowski, Executive Director, Office of Early Learning, DDOE, presented an overview of why early learning matters; early learning programs, governance and staff, and future work and goals.

Board members asked about supporting the wages of child care professionals and the scholarship program funding and the probability of moving to universal Pre-K and discussed potential barriers. Board members inquired about the difference between language and literacy in the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment and the tiered reimbursement system. Board members requested Kindergarten readiness data with regard to low-income families.

VI. Charter Schools

A. Monthly Charter School Update (For Information)

Mr. Leroy Travers, Education Associate, Charter School Office, DDOE, provided the monthly report of Odyssey Charter School. Board members asked for updates regarding the audit findings and next steps, for clarification that Odyssey's Board officers will be selected in open meetings, and if there was an update on paying back state funds. Board members asked about next steps related to the conditions and whether there will be a summative decision on whether the school has been removed from probation.

B. New Applications and Major Modifications (For Discussion)

One new charter application was received by DDOE. The application did not meet the completeness check and consequently will not move forward.

There are major modifications applications from Newark Charter, Sussex Academy, and Academy of Dover. The Charter School Accountability Committee (CSAC) will begin meeting in January. Board members discussed the need to look closely at the financial outcomes for Academy of Dover and asked about the reasons for expanding to grade 6. They asked about the short timeline for expansion for Sussex Academy and the impact that could have on the school and the students. Board members asked which schools received funds through the charter program grant. Members encouraged CSAC to consider what each school is doing to increase diversity and opportunity for low-income students.

C. Financial Framework Update (For Information)

Mr. Travers and Dr. Chuck Longfellow, Associate Secretary, Operations Support, DDOE, shared information regarding the updates, timeline, and anticipated next steps for updating the financial framework. Board members inquired about the timeframe for the updates, when the framework would be fully implemented, and when the information for the new framework will be available.

VII. Formal Public Comment

Public comment was given by Mike Matthews, district resident and teacher, regarding charter schools.

VIII. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Rev. Powell and seconded by Mr. Rushdan. The motion carried (5 Yes to 0 No – Yes: Lofink, Noble, Powell, Rushdan, and Sweeney).

The meeting adjourned at 8:11pm.

Digital recordings of the meeting can be found in the “audio recordings” section of the State Board of Education’s website.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan S. Bunting, Ed.D.
Executive Secretary and Secretary of Education